



## GSB Summer Reading Suggestions for Children Entering Second Grade

The single most important thing to ensure school success for a child is having someone read to him or her. Children of parents who read become readers themselves. Listed below are suggestions and possibilities for summer reading. These titles may be of help to you or to librarians and bookstore clerks as you choose books to read with your child. Please don't be limited to this list. Feel free to read what you and what your child will enjoy.

### 2021 Award Winners

#### Caldecott

- \* *We Are Water Protectors* written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade
- The Cat Man of Aleppo* written by Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha and illustrated by Yuko Shimizu
- Me & Mama* written and illustrated by Cozbi A. Canrera
- Outside In* written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Cindy Derby
- A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart* written by Zetta Elliott and illustrated by Noa Denmon

#### Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award

- \* *R-E-S-P-E-C-T* written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Frank Morrison
- Magnificent Homespun Brown* written by Samara Cole Doyon and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
- Exquisite: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* written by Suzanne Slade and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera
- Me and Mama* written and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera

#### Schneider Family Book Award

- I Talk Like a River* written by Jordan Scott and illustrated by Sydney Smith
- All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything* written by Annette Bay Pimentel and illustrated by Nabi H. Ali
- Itzhak: A Boy Who Loved the Violin* written by Tracy Newman and illustrated by Abigail Halpin

#### Pura Belpre Illustrator Award

- \* *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat* written and illustrated by Raúl Gonzalez
- Sharuko: El Arqueólogo* written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Elisa Chavarri

#### Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

- \* *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog* written by David LaRochelle and illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
- The Bear in My Family* written and illustrated by Maya Tatsukawa
- Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom!* written by Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrated by Nina Mata
- What About Worms!?* Written by Ryan T. Higgins
- Where's Baby?* Written and illustrated by Anne Hunter

\*1<sup>st</sup> place medal winner.

♥ Caldecott winner

## Picture Books

- Becker, Bonny. *A Birthday for Bear*. Despite Bear's efforts to ignore his birthday, Mouse will not rest until his friend celebrates.
- Brett, Jan. *The 3 Little Dassies*. A twist on the classic tale "The Three Little Pigs," featuring three dassies named Mimbi, Pimbi, and Timbi and a pesky eagle.
- Clanton, Ben. *Narwhal and Jelly* series. This graphic novel series follows the adventures of a narwhal and jelly fish who are best friends.
- Coleman, Evelyn. *White Socks Only*. Set in the segregated south, a little girl wearing white socks thinks she can drink from the "Whites Only" water fountain.
- Colleen, Marcie. *Love, Triangle*. Circle and Square have been friends since they were a dot and a speck, but when cool Triangle comes along, can three be friends?
- Crum, Shutta. *Mouseling's Words*. A young mouse ventures out of the family nest to find the greatest adventure of all: reading.
- de la Peña, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. A little boy takes the bus with his grandmother to volunteer at a soup kitchen after church.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet*. In the village of La Paz, everyone sings. But what will happen when the mayor decides to outlaw singing? One rooster refuses to listen.
- Depucchio, Kelly. *Grace for President*. After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election, where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.
- Ering, Timothy Basil. *The Unexpected Love Story of Alfred Fiddleduckling*. Expect something unexpected when a duckling lost at sea adopts a musical new friend in a whimsical, heart-lifting story.
- Emberley, Rebecca. *The Red Hen*. A retelling of the classic story in which Red Hen tries to enlist the help of her friends in baking a Simply Splendid Cake, but they are not interested until it is ready to eat.
- ♥ Falconer, Ian. *Olivia*. Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good.
- Gall, Chris. *Substitute Creacher*. A tentacled substitute teacher warns his students not to misbehave with cautionary tales of the weird, spooky and unexpected.
- ♥ Caldecott winner

Grey, Mini. *Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog*. Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog.

♥Lionni, Leo. *Frederick*. Frederick, the mouse poet, stores up something special for the long cold winter.

♥ Marshall, James. *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. While three bears go for a spin on their bicycle, a naughty little girl enters their house, eats a bowl of porridge, tries out their chairs and beds, and falls asleep.

Meshon, Aaron. *Take Me Out to the Yakyu*. A little boy's grandfathers, one in America and one in Japan, teach him about baseball and its rich, varying cultural traditions.

Miller, Sara Swan. *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* or *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*. Stories addressed to dogs and written from a dog's point of view, featuring such topics as going to the vet, making friends with a rocklike creature, and getting a bath. No dog? Try *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat* or *Three Stories you can Read to Your Teddy Bear*.

♥Mora, Oge. *Thank you, Omu!* Omu (Nigerian for queen, but grandma here) is making a delicious red stew for her evening meal. The delicious smell travels through the neighborhood and she shares with everyone who visits. But when dinner time arrives, she has none left. In reaction to her kindness, her neighborhood friends give back in a wonderful way.

Kimmel, Eric A. *Jack and the Giant Barbecue*. Jack's mother tells his his father died when a giant stole his barbecue recipes. Jack vows to find the giant and retrieve the book. Includes an author's note about Texas barbecue.

♥Reynolds, Aaron. *Creepy Carrots*. Jasper Rabbit cannot resist pulling the carrots that grow in Crackenhopper Field each time he passes by, until he begins hearing and seeing creepy carrots wherever he goes. Try also *Creepy Pair of Underwear* for extra creepy fun!

♥Stein, David Ezra. *Interrupting Chicken*. Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale.

Stevens, Janet. *Help Me Mr. Mutt! Expert Answers for Dogs With People Problems*. Dogs across the United States write to Mr. Mutt, a people expert, for help with their humans.

♥ T aback, Simms. *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*. Ever-expanding die-cut holes show exactly what is happening in the old lady's stomach as she swallows an assortment of creatures, beginning with a small fly, and ending with a fatal horse.

Vernick, Audrey. *So You Want to be a Rock Star*. Want to learn to play air guitar? Wear the coolest rock-star clothes? Sign your autograph for tons of fans? Then this is the book for you! Perfect for young fans of Rock

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Band or the Disney pop stars.

♥ Willems, Mo. *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. A pigeon that longs to drive a bus sees a chance to make its dream come true when the bus driver takes a short break. In fact, read everything by Mo...

## Easy Readers

Egan, Tim. *Dodsworth in Rome series*. Dodsworth and his duck companion have a lovely time in Rome, even though the duck tries to improve the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and takes all the coins from the Trevi Fountain.

Lloyd, Jennifer. *Murilla Gorilla, Jungle Detective*. Murilla Gorilla is a lovable jungle detective who solves mysteries for her friends. In this case, Ms. Chimpanzee's muffins are stolen and Murilla must crack the case.

Manushkin, Fran. *Katie Woo series*. Katie is always willing to try something new. Follow her on her adventures.

Nolan, Lucy. *Bad to the Bone*. As told from the perspective of the dog, Down Girl, she explains about her days protecting her home from the enemy next door, Here Kitty Kitty, and the many ways she tries to properly train her master, Ruff. Try all the books in the *Down Girl and Sit series*.

Ramsey, Calvin Alexander. *Ruth and the Green Book*. In the 1950's Ruth and her family are taking a trip to Alabama to see her grandmother, but they discover on their way that many people at hotels and gas stations will not serve them because they are African American. Then her father learns about the Green Book. This story is fiction but Jim Crow Laws and The Green Book are historical facts.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge series*. Easy readers about a little boy and his big dog. Also try the *Mr. Putter and Tabby series*. Easy readers about retiree Mr. Putter, his cat Tabby and next door neighbor, Mrs. Teaberry.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. *Nate the Great series*. Nate the Great investigates the various mysteries in his neighborhood.

## Chapter Books

Adler, David A. *Cam Jansen Mystery series*. A mystery/adventure series about a girl who uses her photographic memory to solve mysteries.

Barkley, Callie. *The Critter Club series*. Four friends get together to save lost and lonely animals by starting an animal shelter.

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean series*. Seven-year-old tomboy, Bean, thinks the new girl across the street looks nice, which is just another word for boring. But, as it turns out, Ivy is anything but dull.

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Beaty, Andrea. *The Questioneers series*. Rosie Revere and her friends are now stars of their own chapter books! Wonderful STEM fiction.

Blabey, Aaron. *The Bad Guys series*. They may be bad, but these bad guys want to be heroes and they are here to save the day.

Birney, Betsy. *Humphrey's Tiny Tales series*. Humphrey is the class pet at Longfellow School. These happy hamster tales are full of fun, friendship, and adventure.

Cummings, Troy. *The Notebook of Doom series*. Follow Alexander Bopp and the Super Secret Monster Patrol as they battle the monsters found in the Monster Notebooks.

Eliot, Rebecca. *Owl Diaries series*. Animal friends share stories of friendship and fun with an easy chapter book format.

Haas, Jessie. *Bramble and Maggie series*. Maggie has always wanted a pony. Maggie wants to be done with boring horseback riding lessons. Are they a perfect match?

Hanlon, Abby. *Dory Fantasmagory series*. Dory is full of life, fun and always looking for adventure. She has a very active imagination and an imaginary friend and together they create magical adventures.

Joyner, Andrew. *Boris on the Move*. Boris lives in Hogg Bay in an old bus that used to travel all over the world, but now just sits there—until one day when his parents take him on an adventure.

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything*. Second-grader Ruby Lu's life is never the same after her deaf cousin and her family emigrate from China.

*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*. Second grader, Alvin Ho, a Chinese American boy, is afraid of elevators, substitute teachers, and especially school, where he has never uttered a single word.

Lyons, Kelly Starling. *Jada Jones series*. Jada loves science – especially rocks and minerals. So when her teacher announces a rocks and minerals assignment, Jada perks up. But when her group will not listen to her ideas, she must find a way to make it work.

Manushkin, Fran. *Katie Woo series*. For Katie Woo, school is one big adventure. Join the stylish schoolgirl as she learns how to be a great classmate and friend. From the school play to the class pet, Katie knows how to rule the school!

O'Connor, Jane. *Nancy Clancy: Super Sleuth*. Book one in the series. Nancy must find the culprit when a prized possession goes missing at school.

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Riddell, Chris. *Wendel and the Robots*. Wendel must find a way to take back control of his workshop from the robot assistant he created, and along the way, Wendel learns about the importance of recycling.

Vail, Rachel. *A is for Elizabeth*. Elizabeth's name has so many letters. Anna's name has four and begins with A, the first letter of the alphabet. Elizabeth does not understand why Anna is always first just because her name begins with A. In this story she learns about friendship, fairness, and glue.

Warner, Sally. *Ellray Jakes series*. Ellray is a third grade boy faced with challenges like bullying, telling the truth, jealousy and more in this engaging series.

### Non-Fiction, Poetry, Biography

Barretta, Gene. *Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*. Tells of the astonishing accomplishments of this founding father and his inventions which are in use today.

Beck, W.H. *Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights*. Introduces animals that glow, exploring what makes them "light" up, their habitat and the adaptations they have made, how they communicate, and more.

Brown, Don. *A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood and Astonishing Inventions of Thomas Edison*. What was Thomas Edison like as a child? This biography tackles Edison's childhood and young adult years.

Coulson, Art. *Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army*. In 1912, the Carlisle Indian Industrial School played the West Point Cadets. Many of the players were descendants of the US soldiers and American Indians who had met on the battlefield only 20 years earlier. History aside, the Carlisle football team wanted to prove that they were the best in the land.

Coy, John. *Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball*. James Naismith was substituting for a gym class in 1891 and the students were wild. Solution: a game to keep them engaged for the rest of the class.

Davis, Jill. *Orangutans are Ticklish: Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer*. Up-close photographs and fun facts about animals make this book a great choice for animal lovers.

DiSiena, Laura Lyn. *Hippos Can't Swim and Other Fun Facts*. A title jam-packed with similarly awesome animal facts, from the very obvious to the obscure.

Donnelly, Judy. *The Titanic, Lost...and Found*. A simple account of the sinking of the Titanic and its discovery many years later.

Duke, Shirley. *Seasons of the Freshwater Pond Biome*. Discusses the different plants and animals that make a pond their home.

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Earle, Sylvia. *Hello, Fish*. An underwater explorer takes a tour of the ocean and introduces such fish as the damselfish, stargazer and brown goby.

Floca, Brian. *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*. Follow the preparations of Aldrin, Armstrong, and Collins on their historic July 1969 mission to the moon and back in this oversized nonfiction picture book.

Florian, Douglas. *UnBEElievable: Honeybee Poems and Paintings*. Poet and artist Douglas Florian visited GSB in March 2019 and shared with us his unique and fun style. These poems all revolve around bees.

Gibbons, Gail. *Galaxies, Galaxies!* This orderly guide to our universe of stars and galaxies introduces children to the awe-inspiring dimensions of space through imaginative and appealing art.

George, Jean Craighead. *How to Talk to Your Cat*. Describes how cats communicate with people through their behavior and sounds and explains how to talk back to them.

Holub, Joan. *Why Do Dogs Bark?* Questions and answers present information about the origins, behavior, and characteristics of dogs and their interactions with humans.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark*. A biography of the blind and deaf girl who overcame both handicaps with the help of her teacher, Annie Sullivan.

Jenkins, Steve. *Animals in Flight*. Find out how, when, and why birds and beasts have taken to the air and discover how wings work in this informative and brilliantly illustrated book about flight.

Kalman, Maira. *Looking at Lincoln*. A young girl is curious about Abraham Lincoln and sets out to find out more about the life of the nation's sixteenth president.

Kramer, Sydelle A. *To the Top!* Here is the true, history-making story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay—the first people to reach the highest spot on the planet.

Lauber, Patricia. *What You Never Knew About Fingers, Forks & Chopsticks*. Describes changes in eating customs throughout the centuries and the origins of table manners.

Levine, Sara. *Tooth by Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks and Chompers*. What would you look like with squirrel teeth? What do your teeth do? How are they like a walrus? Read to find out!

♥ Mattick, Lindsay. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*. This is the true-life story of the bear who became Winnie the Pooh. From the battlefields of World War I to the London Zoo, to Christopher Robin, this story is a must-read.

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Memory, Jalani. *A Kids Book about Racism*. This is a book about racism written for children that explains what racism is, how it makes people feel, and what to do about it when you see it.

Murphy, Frank. *George Washington and the General's Dog*. Recounts events in the life of George Washington that focus on his fondness for animals, especially dogs.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*. The lives of ten black women who have put their lives on the line for social justice are profiled here including Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Biddy Mason, Fannie Lou Hamer and more.

Prelutsky, Jack. *My Dog May Be a Genius*. How delicious, how delightful, how utterly sensational it is to dig into this chunky-sized collection of 105 Prelutsky poems.

♥ Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. *First the Egg*. Shows the transformations of various animals and objects, such as a seed to a flower, paint to a picture, and a caterpillar to a butterfly.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be President?* Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents starting with George Washington.

Tavares, Matt. *There Goes Ted Williams*. Briefly chronicles the life of Ted Williams who spent his entire career with the Boston Red Sox.

Thomson, Sarah. *Amazing Gorillas!* An easy reader that gives the basics of gorilla family life, behavior and habitat. Also try *Amazing Dolphins!* Same idea but featuring dolphins.

Vernick, Audrey. *She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story*. An illustrated biography of baseball fanatic Effa Manley, describing her childhood in Philadelphia, her career as a business manager, how she came to be the owner of the New Jersey baseball team, the Newark Eagles, and her induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Zoehfeld, Kathleen. *What is the World Made Of?* Presents in a simple fashion, the three states of matter, solid, liquid and gas, and describes their attributes.

The following books may be read in class in the second grade, so please avoid reading them over the summer:

*Schoolhouse on the Prairie* by Cynthia Mercadi

*Wagons Ho* by Cynthia Mercadi

*Square Against the World: The Story of a Sod House* by Cynthia Mercadi

*James Meets the Prairie* by Katy Z. Allen

*Great Migrations: Butterflies* by Laura Marsh

*Caterpillar to Butterfly* by Laura Marsh

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